(b) whether complaints against private companies regarding coal washeries have been received; and

(c) if so, the action taken against such private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has decided in principle to set up washweries with the State-of-the-art technologies on "Build and Operate" (BO) basis where Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies will provide the capital funding and other infrastructure facilities. Further, it has been decided that all new opencast projects of more than 2.50 million tonnes capacity, which are not linked to pit-head power stations should be designed with an integrated washery.

(b) Some complaints relating to the washeries in private sector located in Korba coalfield area of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) have been received.

(c) Private companies operating the washeries do not come under the administrative control of SECL. The coal company supplies the coal to the linked consumers and not to the washery operators.

Increasing prices of coal

3821. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has decided to increase the price of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on the prices of essential commodities and the rate of inflation; and

(d) the steps taken to stop illegal mining of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(d) Law and order is a State subject. However, following steps are taken by the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) to prevent illegal mining:

i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.

ii) Concrete walls have been created on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

iii) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".

iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.

v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable poitns to check transport documents.

vii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.

viii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities;

Accusations against Aryan Coal Benefication Plant, SECL

†3822. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several MPs and institutions have brought accusations of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.